

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner made the restriction requirement final, disapproved the proposed drawing change as adding new matter, objected to the amendment to the Specification as adding new matter and required cancellation of the amendment, rejected claims 34 through 37 under the first paragraph of Section 112, objected to newly amended claim 37 as claiming multiple species in one claim, rejected claims 18, 19, 22, 34 and 35 as anticipated by the Love reference, rejected claims 23-25, 31, 32 and 37 as obvious over Love in view of Sondergeld, et al., rejected claim 26 as obvious over Love and Sondergeld and Wenzel, and rejected claims 32 and 33 as obvious over Love and Sondergeld and Ota.

New Matter Rejection

The present application is an International Application filed under the auspices of the PCT. When originally filed, the International Application included a claim 13 which calls for a “control unit for the actuation of the cleaning station (100) and of the inking station (54) characterized in that the control unit simultaneously places the cleaning station (100) and the inking station (54) into operation during the printing event.” As such the original International Application includes the disclosure of a control unit for the cleaning station and the inking station, such control unit being capable of simultaneous control of the two stations. Therefore, the control unit is part of the original disclosure as of the International filing date.

The papers for entry into the U.S. national stage of this International Application included a Preliminary Amendment which presented a Substitute Specification with an addition to the summary portion of the patent Specification which paraphrases claim 13 of the original International Application. The Substitute Specification discloses “a control unit for the actuation of the cleaning station and of the inking station, the control unit simultaneously places the cleaning station and the inking station into operation during the printing event. As such, the specification of the present application as of the date of national stage entry into the U.S. Patent Office also discloses the control unit.

The Preliminary Amendment filed upon entry into the U.S. national stage cancelled the original claims and added new claims 18 through 39. New claim 34, which is included in the Preliminary Amendment, claims the same subject matter as claim 13 of the original

International Application including calling for “a control unit for actuation of the cleaning station, the control unit simultaneously places the cleaning station and the inking station into operation during the printing event.” Accordingly, the control unit is claimed in the U.S. national phase application as of its U.S. filing date.

Applicants have added to the drawings of the present application a single block element as the control unit which is disclosed in the Specification and claimed in the original claims. Also added are two lines indicating that the control unit actuates the cleaning station and the inking station. The specification is also amended at the Detailed Description portion to refer to the block element added to the drawing. The additions to the Specification and drawing add nothing more than has already been disclosed in the original disclosure, for example by the claim 13 of the application filed as of the International filing date and the Summary of the Invention passage and claim 34 filed upon entry into the U.S. national stage.

The only addition not found in this original disclosure is the new part number “103” which is added for the convenience of comparing the specification to the drawings.

Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is added by the additional text added to the detailed description of the Specification nor by the simple block element and two lines added to the drawing. Further applicants submit that no new matter is added by the additional reference character 103. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the new matter rejection under Rule 1.121(a)(6) and Section 132 and 112, first paragraph. In particular, as shown above, the drawing amendment does not introduce new matter into the drawings; the amendment to the Specification does not introduce new matter into the disclosure; and claims 34 through 37 claim only subject matter which is fully supported by the original application.

Claim Objection

In response to the Examiner’s assertion that amended claim 37 attempts to claim multiple species in one claim, Applicants assert that amended claim 37 is merely redrafted in independent form, incorporating the limitations of the claims from which claim 37 depended. As such, claim 37 illustrates the Applicant’s position that the original claims are generic to the different species identified by the Examiner and so support withdrawal of the restriction requirement. Claim 37 is of a scope sufficient to encompass the elected species.

35 USC §102(b)

The Love reference discloses a printing system and in Figure 11 depicts a conventional gravure roller with a hydrophobic layer material over a hydrophilic surface. The Specification of the Love reference describes that printing is done in accordance with conventional gravure printing practice. Printing is performed by cylinder to substrate contact. The disclosure, in column 24 of the reference, describes the gravure cylinder as being easily reused by cleaning ink from the cells and surface of the cylinder using conventional methods and removing, for example by ablation all remaining hydrophobic layer material and other material from the cells. The Examiner references column 6 of the reference wherein a cleaning roll stack 12 applies a conventional cleaning solvent to the surface of the roll in conjunction with a soft doctor blade and solvent drying jets.

The independent claims of the present application which were rejected over Love have been amended to provide for ultrasound cleaning. Applicants respectfully submit that the Love reference does not disclose this feature and as such the feature is not anticipated by the Love reference.

35 USC §103(a)

Applicants respectfully submit that a person of ordinary skill in the art would not combine the teachings of the Sondergeld reference with the Love reference since the Sondergeld reference discloses only a process for cleaning a roller which can take place during a maintenance or standstill operation of the printer and is not possible during the operation of the printer. The person of ordinary skill would not turn to a reference requiring halting of a printer for cleaning if the desire is to clean the printer during operation.

The present invention provides a cleaning operation which is ongoing and takes place during the printing operation. As such, the present invention as claimed represents a non-obvious advance over the prior art, even when considered in combination. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention is patentable over even the combined teachings of the Love reference in view of the Sondergeld reference.

The Wenzel reference discloses ultrasound cleaning of a printing drum. The ultrasound of Wenzel is the only cleaning provided.

By contrast, the present invention has a cleaning station and also has an ultrasound station. There is no teaching or suggestion to provide both in the prior art. Further, there is no suggestion or reason for modifying the teachings of the prior art to provide the particular combination claimed in the present claims.

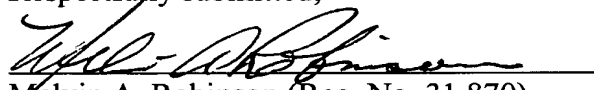
The Ota reference does not provide the combined use of a cleaning station and ultrasound as claimed and so does not obviate the claimed invention.

The present invention is therefore non-obvious over the combined teachings of the prior art.

Conclusion

Each of the issues raised in the Office Action by the Examiner have been addressed and the invention has been shown to be patentably distinct over the cited prior art. Further, the changes proposed for the drawings and Specification have been shown as not introducing new matter. As such, entry of the drawing change and Specification change is hereby requested and favorable reconsideration of the claimed invention in light of the foregoing arguments is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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IN THE DRAWINGS

A drawing change is proposed which does not add new matter for the following reasons.

In the original International Application is included a claim 13 which recites that the printer device comprises “a control unit for the actuation of the cleaning station (1000 [sic, should read (100)] and of the inking station (54) characterized in that the control unit simultaneously places the cleaning station (100) and the inking station (54) into operation during the printing event.” Claim 13 was replaced by claim 34 upon national stage entry.

In the Substitute Specification as filed upon national stage entry before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office for this application is provided on page 5, lines 2 through 5, that the printer device includes “a control unit for the actuation of the cleaning station and of the inking station, the control unit simultaneously places the cleaning station and the inking station into operation during the printing event.”

As such, the International Application as originally filed disclosed a control unit, and the specification as filed upon U.S. national stage entry described a control unit. Few details of the operation of the control unit are disclosed in the Specification other than that the control unit actuates the cleaning station and the inking station and places the cleaning station and the inking station simultaneously into operation during the printing event.

A proposed drawing change is submitted herewith which adds to the drawing only that which is already disclosed in the original application. In other words, a control unit, indicated as mere block element on the drawing, is added to the drawing to illustrate the control unit as it is claimed in the original claim and that is described in the specification and claim 34 as filed upon U.S. national stage entry. Lines from the control unit to the cleaning station and the inking station are added to the drawing to indicate that the control unit is operable to actuate the cleaning station and the inking station as described in the specification as filed upon national stage entry and as claimed in the original claim 13 filed in the International Application and replacement claim 34. As such, the added block element and two lines do not constitute new matter in the application but only show that which was already disclosed and described. A reference numeral 103 has been added in the drawing to facilitate comparison of the written description to the drawing. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is added by the addition of the reference numeral. As such,

Applicants respectfully submit that the drawing correction filed herewith does not constitute new matter in this application.

Enclosed is an amended Figure 2 marked "Replacement Sheet" showing the change described above. Also enclosed is a copy of the Figure 2 marked to show the changes, which sheet is marked "Annotated Sheet Showing Changes."

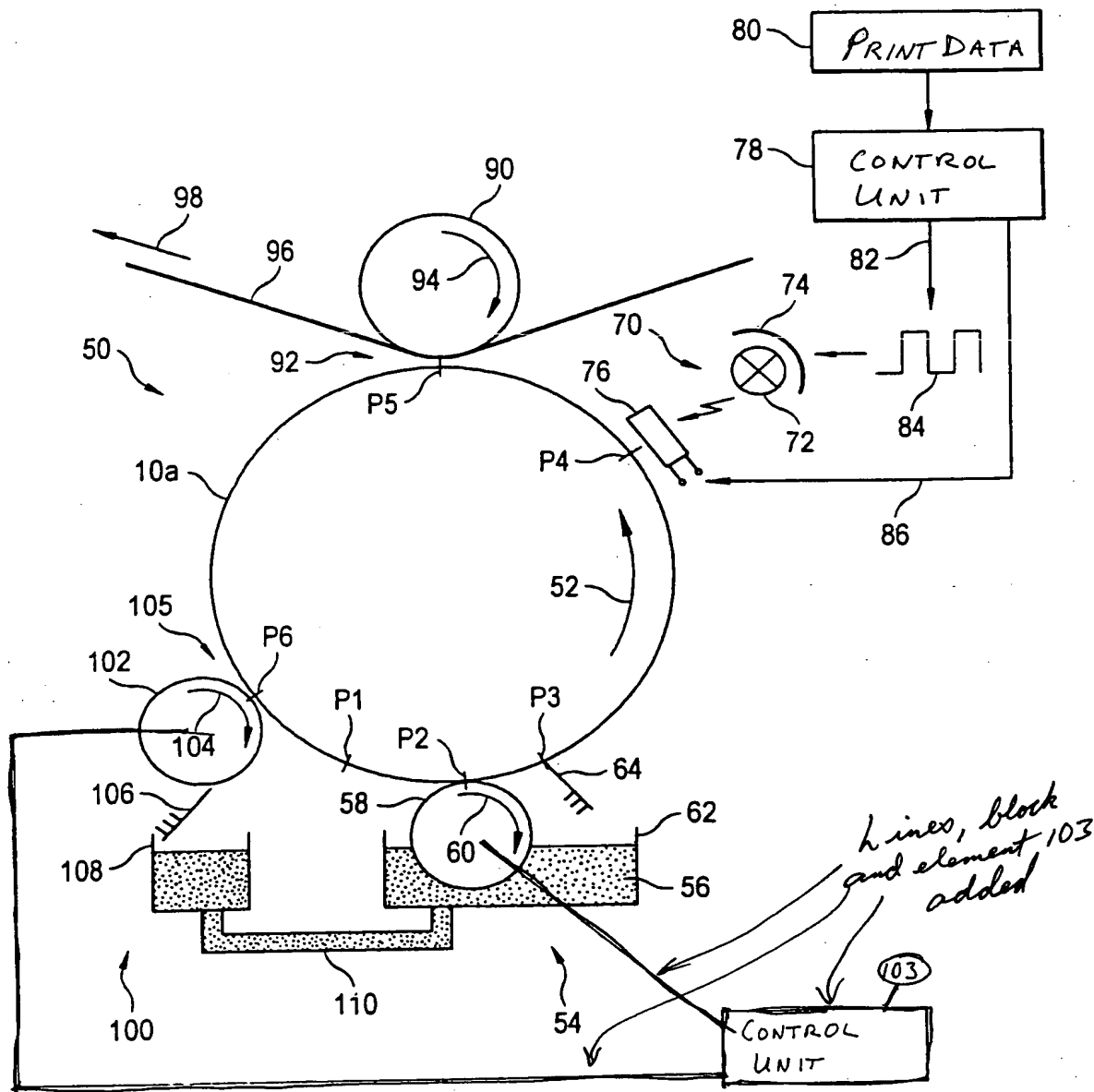


FIG.2